



AHSS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024





Take a Look

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Dean's Welcome

Welcome to the AHSS Winter Faculty Newsletter



Dr. Sandra Joyce
Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts,
Humanities and Social Sciences

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share the Winter edition of the Faculty Newsletter with you, documenting such sustained excellence across our disciplines. As we approach the end of 2024, we should reflect on the productive and busy semester we have had and celebrate all that we have achieved. Firstly, our staff have been recognised for their leadership in community and industry engagement, teaching excellence and research scholarship. Examples include continued success and nominations for our Creative Writing Faculty and students at the Irish Book Awards and the various awards staff have received for their valuable contributions to their chosen disciplines detailed in the Awards section of this newsletter .

Our sense of civic engagement remains very strong through our significant research but also in our connections to local and national networks. Examples of impactful research initiatives include the continued success of the Whichcandidate.ie tool aiding voters in their decision-making process in our recent national election and the provision of Autism awareness training to members of An Garda Síochána. Our internationalisation activity is evident through engagement and participation in events encouraging partnerships on a local, national and international level. This includes a recent visit of His Excellency, Ambassador of Japan to Ireland, Mr Norio Maruyumu and recent award success for the Erasmus+ KA2 MaMaLise project, to name just two.

I remain deeply impressed by the continued dynamism that is evident in the pursuit of knowledge and cultural exchanges in the Faculty, particularly in relation to the hosting of wonderful events. These engagements consist of workshops, seminars, concerts, festivals, cultural exchanges and more. Examples include Geography Awareness week and the Think Languages gathering, both held recently. Staff have supported dynamic events such as the recent launch of "Luail" - an all-Ireland Dance Company - and the hosting of public debate on the General election by colleagues from the Journalism section, with Limerick city electoral candidates from across the various parties.

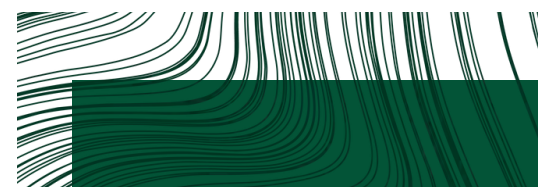
Our students also continue to impress across a range of pursuits, which include current MA Public History and Cultural Heritage student, Tara Brady, representing Tipperary at the 2024 Rose of Tralee festival, as well as scholarship success for our German Language students kindly supported by retail giant Lidl. Our illustrious AHSS alumni featured in this newsletter continue to shine. Two of our alumni, Sarah Kinsella (BA History, Politics and Social Studies) and Mary McCarthy (MA Creative Writing) are featured here, and highlight the impact their studies have had on their career and life journey.

As a snapshot of time, I believe that this newsletter showcases the exceptional quality of our staff and students. I am extremely grateful to all who contributed to it, and especially to Oonagh Grace and Karen Byrnes who worked so hard to put it together. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful Christmas break and prosperous New Year and would like to thank you very sincerely for your continued hard work and engagement.

Warm regards,

Dr Sandra Joyce

Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences





WhichCandidate: New research shows voters switched preferences after using election website

Research conducted by Dr. Rory Costello (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration), revealed that many voters using the WhichCandidate.ie tool changed their initial voting preference after reviewing results that identified candidates better aligned with their policy views. WhichCandidate, developed by Dr. Costello and his team, helps users match with candidates based on policy alignment. The study found that the majority of users whose results strongly conflicted with their original intentions switched their preference, with undecided voters, young voters, urban voters, and those less interested in politics being particularly influenced.

During the 2024 European elections, a survey was extended to over 48,000 users of WhichCandidate, with 26,100 responding. Among them, 36% changed their first preference on the ballot, rising to 57% when the original choice was ranked outside the top five by the tool. The research involved users completing a survey before viewing their results and filling out a mock ballot paper afterward. Dr. Costello emphasized that voters are increasingly using online tools like WhichCandidate, and the findings demonstrate a significant willingness to change preferences based on policy alignment, particularly among younger voters with weaker party loyalties. WhichCandidate launched in 2014 for Limerick's local elections and has since expanded nationally for various elections. It recorded 126,000 visits in the final days of the 2024 European elections. Dr. Costello described the tool as a quick and effective way to become a more informed voter, offering features like personalized results and a mock ballot paper. All site information comes directly from candidates or parties, with over 600 candidates contacted to ensure comprehensive representation.

Unheard Voices: Competition for Inclusive Journalism honours pioneering student.



Entries are open for a competition established by UL journalism section in memory of Joe Drennan, a journalism student. The Joe Drennan Memorial Competition for Inclusive Journalism in association with The Irish Times, aims to recognise journalism that enhances understanding of marginalised communities. Speaking on the first anniversary of his death, Dr Kathryn Hayes, Course Director, BA in Journalism and Digital Communication, said Joe was an exceptionally talented student journalist whose name will never be forgotten in the University of Limerick. Entrants are required to produce a 1,000 – 1500-word article, suitable for multi-media use. The winning article will be selected based on impact, originality, news gathering and research, depth of investigation, and quality of writing.

Speaking about the adjudication process Mark Hennessy, Ireland and Britain Editor of The Irish Times said they are looking for underreported stories that break new ground on a subject. The winner of the competition, which is open to all UL students will be published in the Irish Times and also receive a perpetual trophy presented by members of the Drennan family. The closing date for entries is December 13th 2024. Entries can be emailed to: kathryn.hayes@ul.ie.





Treasure trove of rare materials on Irish literature, art, culture and music unveiled as Gottschalk Collection launches at UL

Rare works by James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, and a 500-year-old theology book by a Limerick Franciscan priest are among the treasures in the Jürgen Gottschalk Collection, launched at University of Limerick (UL).

Housed in UL's Glucksman Library, the collection features thousands of items on Irish literature, art, and culture, including German translations of Irish works and rare editions by authors like Jonathan Swift and Roddy Doyle. A highlight is "Hibernici, ordinis minorum doctoris" (1518), linked to Limerick's Malachy.

Donated by the late Celtic scholar Jürgen Gottschalk, the collection was unveiled during UL's Centre for Irish-German Studies conference.

Dr. Carmel Hannan elected to Young Ireland Academic Advisory panel

Dr. Carmel Hannan, Associate Professor in Sociology (Dept. of Sociology) has been elected to the Young Ireland Academic Advisory panel of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth's Young Ireland Council in recognition of her valuable expertise and knowledge. This panel acts in an advisory capacity to the Young Ireland governance structures. This includes advice on research available on an ad-hoc basis, or presenting to various groups on topics of expertise. Young Ireland is the new policy framework for children and young people aged 0-24. It covers the period from 2023-2028.





Dr. Aengus Ó Fionnagáin appointed to The Placenames Committee

Dr. Aengus Ó Fionnagáin, (School of English, Irish, and Communication), has been appointed to The Placenames Committee by Minister Catherine Martin and Minister of State Thomas Byrne of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (of the previous Dáil). The Placenames Committee is a statutory committee and will advise the Minister on Irish versions of Irish placenames under the Official Languages Act. A Chairperson and ten ordinary members have been appointed to the Committee, which is to serve for three years, until June 2027.

Tá Aengus Ó Fionnagáin ceaptha ina bhall den Choiste Logainmneacha ag an Aire Catherine Martin agus ag an Aire Stáirt Thomas Byrne, An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán. Coiste reachtúil é an Coiste Logainmneacha a chuirfidh comhairle ar an Aire maidir le leaganacha Gaeilge de logainmneacha na hÉireann a dhearbhú faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Cathaoirleach agus deichniúr gnáthchomhaltaí atá ceaptha ar an gCoiste, a bhfuil téarma trí bliana le bheith aige, go mí an Mheithimh 2027. Eolais breise ag gov.ie.

Interreg Europe funded “Citicess” Project

REPPP Team Members Helen Fitzgerald, and Dr. Johnny Connolly (School of Law) were invited by Ballyhoura Development to take part in a study visit to Heerlen, The Netherlands on October 14th to 17th. The study visit took place as part of Ballyhoura's Citicess Project. Citicess - Citizen Centered Social Services is an EU project which brings together 8 partners from across Europe to share information and learning and to jointly test new approaches to support marginalised communities.

In Heerlen, delegates attended a Masterclass on the Breakthrough Method being piloted by the Municipality of Heerlen as a new approach to supporting families experiencing multiple complex challenges. Delegates met with the Breakthrough Team who shared valuable insights and learning of the relevance to REPPP's No Wrong Door Project. The aim of the No Wrong Door Project is to explore the needs of young people at risk of being in contact with the justice system and to identify potential collaborative responses based on the “No Wrong Door” principle. ”



Autism awareness training to An Garda Síochána



On the 18th of September, Dr. Alan Cusack, (School of Law), together with Professor Coral Dando (University of Westminster) and Dr. Katie Maras (University of Bath), delivered a landmark Autism Awareness Training seminar to senior officials within An Garda Síochána. The special interactive seminar represented the first public engagement by the Irish Mendez Centre for Investigative Interviewing.

The seminar, which was delivered in collaboration with Inspector Brian Quirke (National Interview Advisor, An Garda Síochána), focused on best practice approaches to identifying and responding to autism spectrum disorder. The effectiveness of the training will now be evaluated through the analysis of pre and post training questionnaires. The results will be published in an international journal article.

Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman appointed as one of the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies Visiting Scholars

Dr. Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman (School of History and Geography), has been appointed as one of the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies Visiting Scholars for Autumn 2024.

During this time, she will engage in LCIS research activities as well as those of KU Leuven research groups, including KADOC, and will give an LCIS lecture on the topic of her research.



Seams in my Socks world premiere

Dr. Yonit Kosovske (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance), gave the world premiere of “Seams in my Socks” during Uillinn Dance Season at the West Cork Arts Centre in Skibbereen on October 29. New work co-authored by Kosovske and Justin Grounds, “Seams in my Socks” is a multi-media 7-minute piece for harpsichord, tape, and moving image, exploring neurodiversity, sensory issues, OCD, and stimming.



The concert featured new music for baroque violin, viola da gamba, harpsichord, and frame drum, including Grounds’ electrifying “Triple Spiral” in collaboration with dance artist & choreographer Chloé Pisco, Brooke Green’s “Reza Barati”, Fiona Linnane’s “Leatherwing”, and Will Ayton’s “Meditation”, as well as improvisation between early instruments and contemporary dance.

REPPP Team essay contribution: Theories of Change in Reality: Strengths, Limitations and Future Directions



Dr. Jane Mulcahy, Dr. Catherine Naughton, and Prof. Seán Redmond (School of Law) contributed an essay to “Theories of Change in Reality: Strengths, Limitations and Future Directions” (Routledge, 2024), edited by Andrew Koleros, Marie-Hélène Hadrien, and Tony Tyrell. The essay addresses the use of a theory of change to track developments in the Intensive Family Programme in Whitetown, an anonymized Irish community, targeting children embedded in adult crime networks. These children, though a small subset of youth justice cases, are responsible for a significant portion of youth crime in Ireland.

The essay examines the co-design of the programme’s theory of change, adapted for local needs, and its role in refining the intervention through on-the-ground testing. It highlights the challenges of implementing dynamic interventions with limited evidence and draws on theoretical and empirical research to assess their impact.

Dr. Michaela Schrage-Früh: Co-edited essay collection on the literary and cultural history of the trope of the German Forest

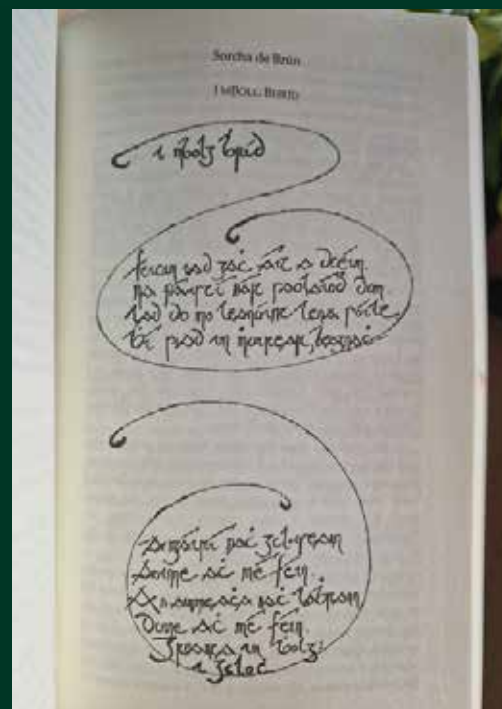
A new edited collection in German Studies, titled *Der Deutsche Wald: Zur Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte eines Mythos* [The German Forest: On the literary and cultural history of a myth] has been published with Königshausen & Neumann (2024).

The collection has been co-edited by Dr. Michaela Schrage-Früh, Director of the Centre for European Studies and Erasmus coordinator, together with Deirdre Byrnes, Tina-Karen Pusse and Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa (University of Galway). It includes a chapter on representations of the German Forest in Dutch literature written by Dr. Marieke Krajenbrink.



Multimodal Art Publication

Dr. Sorcha de Brún's (School of English, Irish, & Communication) multimodal art and poetry piece 'I mBolg Bhríd' (In Bríd's stomach) was published in the collection *Fire: Brigid and the Sacred Feminine* (editors, Shauna Gilligan and Niamh Boyce) on the 1st of October.



The anthology of writing and art was launched in Naas Library and Cultural Centre on the 26th of September. Sorcha wrote the poem in Irish and did the artwork surrounding the poem in Celtic calligraphy, using the festival Imbolc (St. Brigid's Day) as a starting point for the work. The multimodal work was created for those who have lost babies or children, or who have experienced infertility, and is a response to Brigid's association with fertility in the Irish tradition.

Dr. Brian Milstein presents paper on Policing and Democracy in Prague, Dublin, and Giessen



Dr. Brian Milstein (Dept. of Politics & Public Administration) presented a working paper, titled “Policing the Democratic System: Democratic Security, System Effects, and the Politics of Equal Inclusion,” at the May 2024 Philosophy & Social Sciences Conference in Prague. This conference, co-founded in Dubrovnik by Jürgen Habermas and Gajo Petrović, is a premier meeting for researchers working in the tradition of Frankfurt School Critical Theory and featured presentations by scholars from Columbia, Yale, Berlin, Frankfurt, Groningen, Stockholm, Oxford, NUS, and elsewhere.

A version of this paper was also presented to the European Consortium of Political Research, whose annual conference took place in Dublin in August, and at a workshop on “Human Rights in Times of Insecurity” at the Justus Liebig University of Giessen in early September. The paper, co-authored with Dr. Afsoun Afsahi of the University of British Columbia, uses a recently developed approach known as “democratic systems” to improve our understanding of the role of policing institutions and practices in democratic society, show how recent conflicts over policing in the US, UK, and elsewhere may be understood as problems of democratic legitimacy, and highlight possible limitations of popular proposed solutions. In so doing, it also extends our understanding of how various social institutions coalesce into a “system” that conditions the terms of democratic inclusion and collective decision-making. The paper is part of a longer-term project researching democratic systems theory and analysing the repercussions for democracy of institutions and social phenomena not typically looked at by mainstream democratic theory.

Paper presentation "Teaching the Opioid Crisis"-51st International Conference of the Austrian Association for American Studies.

With the generous financial support of the AHSS Faculty Research Committee, Johannes Vith, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, attended and presented a paper titled "Teaching the Opioid Crisis: Nico Walker's *Cherry* (2018) and Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* (2019)," at the 51st International Conference of the Austrian Association for American Studies, titled "Education, the Arts, and American Studies." The conference was held at the University College of Teacher Education Vorarlberg in Austria, focusing on the timely intersection of education, politics, and the arts within American Studies.



New edition of Irish Judicial Studies Journal



Congratulations to Prof. Laura Cahillane and the editorial team in the School of Law on the publication of the latest edition of the Irish Judicial Studies Journal. This latest edition marks the last edition with Prof. Cahillane as editor. She has been at the helm of the journal for the last 7 years and has ensured the growth in reputation, achieving Scopus status, and providing a platform for dialogue between a diverse range of voices, from the most senior judges to early career scholars and practitioners.

The School of Law has greatly benefitted from being associated with the journal and we are delighted that this will continue with Prof. Jennifer Schweppe now taking up the role as editor.

UL's journalism section to partner on major new EU education project

University of Limerick's journalism section is involved in the development of a new European Union education project, it has been announced. Journalism@UL is a partner in the development of a major new EU funded Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) which launched this week. Journalism@UL subject head Dr Fergal Quinn led the UL involvement in developing the course, aimed at helping journalism students understand policy-making in Europe and utilise relevant data and sources.



UL was one of 27 partner institutes in the EU who contributed to the the €1 million project, led by the Institute of Journalism at TU Dortmund. The UL team helped write the content of the MOOC, which was then piloted over the last 12 months by students in UL. The interactive e-learning portal is now available free of charge to universities and the public across Europe. EU Commissioner for Cohesion Policy and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, praised the newly developed MOOC platform COPE as a "shining example of European cooperation" at its official launch earlier this week. Ferreira said the future of the EU also depends on independent media, which with their critical reporting, "shed light on every corner of the European house" – and thus advance democracy in Europe.

European Centre for the Study of Hate

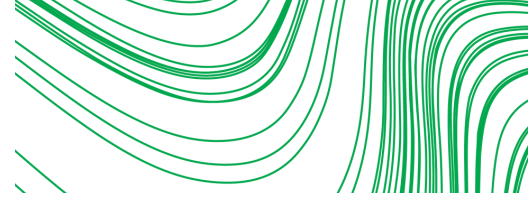
Members of the European Study of Hate have had a busy semester. Dr. Lindsey Garratt, Professor Amanda Haynes, and Professor Jennifer Scheppe published "I felt . . . caged": Victims of hate crime and their negotiation of space" in *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, indexed in the top decile of Scopus.



Dr. Sindy Joyce, David Joyce, Prof. Amanda Haynes, and Prof. Jennifer Scheppe appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community. They presented research findings from the Irish Travellers Access to Justice project and articulated the (lack of) response on the part of the State to the testimonies of Travellers in that research, particularly with respect to racial profiling. A recording of their appearance is available on the Oireachtas website.

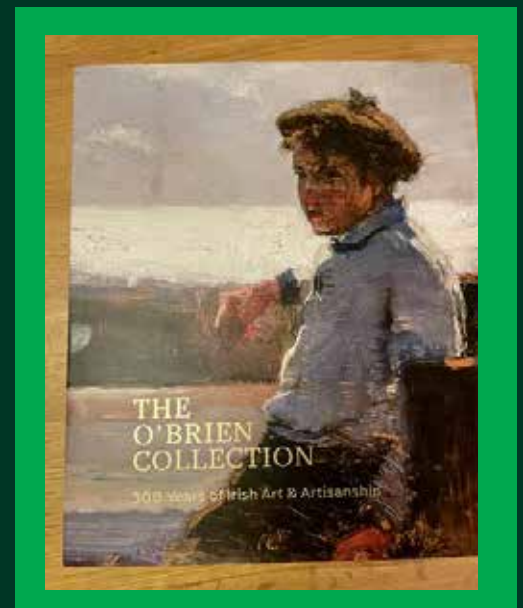
Dr. Ger Coffey, Editor, Irish Criminal Law Journal

Dr. Ger Coffey, Associate Professor (School of Law), is the Editor of the Irish Criminal Law Journal and has recently overseen the publication of [2024] Vol. 34 ICLJ Issue 2 (Summer) and Issue 3 (Autumn). The Irish Criminal Law Journal is the principal refereed journal in Ireland published quarterly by Thomson Round Hall in print format and online (Westlaw.IE and ProView). The journal publishes scholarly research articles on practical aspects of criminal law, cases and comments on leading superior court decisions, in addition to evidence and procedure jurisprudential and legislative updates. The journal publishes authoritative and thought-provoking articles on all aspects of Irish criminal law and incisive commentaries on current superior court developments. While preserving the highest academic standards, the journal also caters for the needs of those involved in the practice and administration of the law, and is frequently referred to by judges, practitioners, academics, criminal justice agencies and those involved in the practice, administration, research and study of criminal law. This ongoing engagement with external criminal justice stakeholders serves to strengthen School of Law stakeholder connections.



Launch of the book "The O'Brien Collection of Irish Art: 300 Years of Art and Artisanry"

The launch of the book "The O'Brien Collection of Irish Art: 300 Years of Art and Artisanry", along with its companion website, took place in The Irish Georgian Society in Dublin on the 26th of September. Edited by Marty Fahey, the book features an essay by Dr. Aileen Dillane (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance), entitled "Music, Song, and Dance in Irish Art". A complementary online essay, "Artists of All Kinds", features insights into twelve artists commissioned to respond to works in the collection, through poetry (Martin Dyar; Linda Aldrich), music (The Goodman Trio; Eileen O'Brien), dance (Kieran Jordan), and painting (Lillie Morris).



Dr. Dillane has been collaborating with Marty Fahey, curator of the O'Brien Family Collection in Chicago, and the composer and performer Liz Carroll, since her Visiting Professorship in Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame in 2017, resulting in an ongoing series of publications on multimodal approaches to Irish Studies and the creative arts in Irish culture.

History of Emotions in the Built Environment (HEBE) network awarded funding from the Royal Irish Academy Commemorations Bursary Scheme.

The HEBE network, led by Dr. Sophie Cooper (QUB) with Dr. Maja Hultman (University of Gothenburg), Dr. Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman (School of History and Geography, University of Limerick), Dr. Joseph Curran (Maynooth University), and Dr. Trisha Kessler (Woolf Institute) have been awarded funding from the Royal Irish Academy 2024 Commemorations Bursary Scheme.

The HEBE network will deliver a series of workshops on the theme of 'Feeling Sites of Commemoration', exploring the history of emotions in relation to commemorative spaces. These will be held in Belfast and Dublin in March and May 2025. Commemorative spaces are deeply affective sites in our landscapes, and this project aims to foreground the issue of emotion as central to how we understand interaction with commemoration and local sites of memory.

This project is innovative and fills an important gap in the scholarship on commemoration, connecting academic research and theory with the lived experience of site managers, and the practice of heritage and planning professionals. HEBE is committed to considering the ways that the history of emotions can help us to better understand the built environment. It aims to facilitate inclusive cross-sectoral discussions between and across discipline and practice



Chair, Canadian International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals 2024

Dr Immanuel Darkwa (School of History and Geography), was invited to Chair the Session on 'SDG Initiatives from Other Lands' at the 2024 Canadian International Conference on the SDG's in Toronto, Canada held on the 26th -27th October 2024.

Immanuel also presented a paper on 'Achieving the Green Deal locally: Developing context induced innovation routines as a process tool for Nature Based Solutions' - Case study Sesevete, Zagreb.

Empowering' new UL song highlights lived experience of people with dementia

Dr. Lisa Kelly and Carl Corcoran (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) took to the airwaves to explain how their song 'We Will Tell Everyone' (by the Memory Lane Heroes) grew out of a songwriting workshop in the Irish World Academy, with three people with a diagnosis of dementia and their spouses or carers. 'We Will Tell Everyone' is a result of a research collaboration between members of the Dementia Research Advisory Team at The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) and the Music Therapy department at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.



The original song explores the experiences of living with dementia and the importance of public and patient involvement in dementia research. Helen Rochford -Brennan, Kevin Quaid and Gerry Paley are all living with various types of dementia with support from their family and friends Carmel Geoghegan, Helena Quaid, and Nuala Paley, and are committed to raising awareness of dementia, PPI in dementia research and breaking the stigma of a dementia diagnosis. They collaborated with music therapist Lisa Kelly from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, at the University of Limerick on her PhD research exploring the role of music therapy for people with dementia and their family caregivers. This research was supervised by Prof. Hilary Moss, Course Director of the MA Music Therapy and Prof. Ita Richardson from Lero - The Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software.

Dr Catherine Porter delivered the David Chart Annual Map Seminar at the Public Records Office Northern Ireland

Dr. Catherine Porter (School of History and Geography, UL) delivered the David Chart Annual Map Seminar at the Public Records Office Northern Ireland on Thursday 31st October (19.30-20.30).

2024 marks two hundred years since the beginnings of the first Ordnance Survey of Ireland. To mark the bicentenary, the project OS200, co-led by the University of Limerick and Queen's University Belfast, has been exploring the process(es) of survey and the cultural impacts and legacies of the OS in Ireland during the early nineteenth century. In this seminar, Dr Catherine Porter, the project's Irish Research Council lead, illustrates some of the early findings from OS200 and introduce the new online resource housed by Digital Repository Ireland.

Health Research Action Plan for Refugee and Migrant Health

A new health research action plan for refugee and migrant health launched on the 10th of October. This participatory health research project used creative methods such as music and singing to ensure that participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts on how to ensure refugees and migrants can be involved in research about their own health needs.

The project was led by the Participatory Health Research Unit, co-directed by Prof. Anne MacFarlane (EHS) and Prof. Helen Phelan (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance). It was co-designed by researchers working in partnership with organisations representing migrants and refugees including the lead NGO partner Doras. The Irish Research Council funded the research.



Yearbook of the German Studies Association of Ireland

This year's edition of the Yearbook of the German Studies Association of Ireland (Germanistik in Ireland, vol. 18, 2024) has been guest-edited by Dr Michaela Schrage-Frueh (MLAL), together with Dr Linda Shortt (Maynooth University) and Jakob Summerer (TCD).

The special issue's theme is "German Studies and the Medical/Health Humanities" and contributions were mostly presented at the GSAI's annual conference at Trinity College Dublin in December 2023. The issue also includes an article by Johannes Vith (MLAL) titled "Landscapes and Nonhuman Witnessing. Sexual Violence and Trauma in Baran bo Odar's 'Das letzte Schweigen'". The Yearbook was launched at the GSAI conference that took place in UL in November.

Interdisciplinary symposium "Ageing in Ireland and the EU: Opportunities and Challenges" organised by Centre for European Studies (CEUROS)

"Dr. Michaela Schrage-Frueh (Centre for European Studies) organised a one-day interdisciplinary symposium "Ageing in Ireland and the EU" which took place on the 24th October. The symposium was generously funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and brought together cultural stakeholders, advocates and researchers to discuss the complex opportunities and challenges around an ageing society in a European context. Speakers included Alison Bough (Active Retirement Ireland/Age Platform Europe), Patricia Conboy (University of Galway), Prof. Desmond O'Neill (TCD), Dr. Christine O'Kelly (DCU), Prof. em. Joachim Fischer (UL), Dr. Tara Byrne (Age and Opportunity), Paula Carroll (Cuimhneamh an Chláir), Dr. Luis Freijo (KCL), and Dr. Maggie O'Neill (University of Galway).



The day kicked off with a powerful keynote by Alison Bough titled "Amplifying Older Voices: The Age Manifesto and the European Elections 2024", followed by panels addressing questions around ethics, care and inclusion; lifelong learning and the age-friendly university initiative; and European, national and regional projects. The event concluded with a literary reading from the recently published anthology 'Well, You Don't Look It! Women Writers in Ireland Reflect on Ageing' (ed. Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and Michaela Schrage-Frueh, Salmon Poetry, 2024) with writers Mary O'Donnell, Eileen Casey and Mary Rafferty. The presenters' engaging and inspiring talks as well as the insightful contributions from the audience turned this event into a huge success and started an important dialogue on how to amplify older people's voices and embrace ageing as an integral part of society.

Dr. Ann Marcus Quinn-Country report on Digital Skills, Accommodation and Technological Assistance for Employment (DATA).

The European Disability Forum (EDF) has officially published the country report for Ireland on Digital Skills, Accommodation, and Technological Assistance for Employment (DATA), alongside the reports from other EU member states. Supported by funding from Google.org, this research explores the challenges and opportunities that persons with disabilities face in the Irish labour market.

The report, written by Dr. Ann Marcus-Quinn (School of English, Irish, and Communications), highlights how digital skills training, accessible technologies, and workplace accommodations can significantly enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment. Its findings offer valuable recommendations for businesses, policymakers, and disability advocates, paving the way toward more equitable access to job opportunities for all. The Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters reviewed the report's findings at a recent meeting.



Presentation: Assessment in Higher Education conference

Dr. Elaine Walsh (School of English, Irish and Communications) presented at the "Assessment in Higher Education" conference on preliminary findings from research into staff experiences with designing assignment briefs and communicating assessment requirements. Conducted at the University of Limerick (Walsh) and Buckinghamshire New University (John Knight), the research uses focus groups to explore these challenges and inform institutional support strategies.

Findings reveal that staff struggle with creating effective briefs, balancing detail without "spoon feeding," and maintaining consistency. Time constraints, tacit disciplinary practices, and institutional expectations further complicate the process. Staff found templates and checklists useful for improving assignment design.



RIA Research Award for interdisciplinary Irish Language/Social History project

Dr. Sorcha de Brún (School of English, Irish, and Communication) and Helene Haak (recently awarded her PhD in History under the co-supervision of Professor Ciara Breathnach and Dr. Sorcha de Brún) has been awarded a prestigious research grant from the Royal Irish Academy as part of a competitive funding call. The project will examine unique court records in the National Archives detailing witness testimonies in Irish in cases regarding violence against women and girls.



Viewed through the lens of social history, this interdisciplinary project will explore the context and circumstances where Irish was used by both prosecution and defence. This project breaks new ground in that it is the first research project of its kind that focuses on Gender History, Justice, the Courts and the Irish language. Utilising a rarely considered set of primary sources, the project will provide a unique perspective on the lived experiences of Irish speakers in the early years of the Irish Free State, while drawing attention to ways that social class and gender influenced the use of Irish in the courtroom. It thus makes significant contributions to knowledge in both historical, legal and modern Irish language studies.

Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland

Ten members of faculty and PhD researchers from the Department of Politics and Public Administration presented thirteen papers at this year's Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland in October.

Two of the presenters were supported by AHSS conference funding; Coalition Preferences and Party Systems presented by Dr Conor Little and The Political Representation of Muslims in Northern and Western European Countries presented by Memoona Nadir.





AHSS Recipients of UL President's Research Excellence and Impact Awards

These awards recognise staff at all University levels who have made outstanding contributions in the excellence and impact of their research beyond academia.

The Outstanding Collaboration Award was one of total of 14 awards presented at a special event held in The Pavilion, North Campus on Tuesday. The event is a celebration of the research taking place across the faculties and the innovative spirit of our research community. The awards showcase the depth and range of fundamental and excellent research being carried out, research that is having a positive and lasting impact on society around us.

AHSS were successful in the overall Researcher awards as well as being recognised in the faculty category at the ceremony.

Early Career Researcher – Consolidator: Professor Hilary Moss, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Awards:

- Consolidator: Associate Prof. Lydia Bracken, School of Law
- Consolidator: Prof. Laura Cahillane, School of Law
- Advanced: Prof. David Fleming, School of History and Geography
- Interdisciplinary: Associate Prof. John Lombard, School of Law, Prof. Owen Doody, Department of Nursing and Midwifery and Dr Hope Davidson, Postdoctoral Researcher School of Law.



Donal Ryan wins An Post Irish Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards

Donal Ryan has come out on top again at this year's Irish Book Awards. *Heart, Be at Peace*, described as a "companion" to his Book of the Year-winning 2012 debut, *The Spinning Heart*, has won this year's Novel of the Year Award. He also won in 2020 with *Strange Flowers*.

The nominations in the various categories included a very strong showing by UL Creative Writing. Along with Donal Ryan who was also shortlisted in the Author of the Year category, Prof. Eoin Devereux was shortlisted in the Best Poetry category, New Irish Writing, for his poem 'Pravda'. Current Creative Writing MA student David O'Neill was also shortlisted in the Best Short Story category, New Irish Writing, for 'Everything is in Place'. Niamh Mulvey, who will be visiting the Creative Writing MA class soon, is shortlisted as Newcomer of the Year for her novel 'The Amendments'.



Dr. Sarah Josefine Schaefer wins GAL-Förderpreis

Dr. Sarah Josefine Schaefer (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) was awarded the GAL-Förderpreis 2024 (German Applied Linguistics Association early career award) for her EU-funded research project “Community, Identity and Diversity in German Youth Radio”, which aims to foster a more meaningful engagement of journalists with linguistic and ethnic diversity.

The award includes a prize of €2000 (donated by the publishers De Gruyter Brill, Narr/Francke/Attempto and Peter Lang) to support young academics in their research work in applied linguistics. The prize money will be used by Dr. Schaefer to expand the planned outreach activities of her project to improve media literacy among the target audience of youth media.

Dr. Erika Marcet wins 2024 LACUS President's Prize Fund

On the 18th of July, Dr. Erika Marcet (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) presented her latest research paper at the 50th Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States (LACUS) Annual Conference. The LACUS Conference was hosted by the University of Waterloo and St. Jerome's University (Canada) from the 17th to the 19th of July.

Her presentation, entitled “Breaking Borders: Exploring Collaborative Learning beyond the L2 Classroom”, explored how language learning opportunities outside the formal Japanese language classroom can enhance learners' affective, social and linguistic competences. Erika's paper was awarded the LACUS President's Prize Fund for the best post-doctoral paper presented at the Annual Conference. This presentation was partly funded with the support from the AHSS Faculty Research Board.





Prof. Michael G. Kelly was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques

Prof. Michael G. Kelly (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Ambassador H.E. Céline Place at a ceremony held in the presence of Mayor John Moran at Limerick City Hall on the 5th of November.

The award is in recognition of Michael's contribution to teaching and research in the areas of literature and culture of French expression over the course of his academic life. The Palmes académiques are the oldest civilian honour awarded by the French Government, having originated in the Napoleonic period (1808).



Events

LIMERICK LEADER

LIMERICK
VOICE

Information contact Kathryn Hayes:
k.hayes@ul.ie or seic@ul.ie



Bringing Back the City? Limerick Decides Public Debate with Limerick City General Election Candidates

The School of English, Irish, and Communication's journalism section invited Limerick city general election candidates to have their say on the future of the city ahead of polling day on the 29th of November.

Hosted by staff and students from Journalism, the general election debate was held on the 20th of November, in front of a live audience. All declared candidates for the Limerick city constituency were invited to participate in this public debate, which underlines UL's journalism department's commitment to promoting democratic engagement and questioning and interrogating the political process.

The debate was moderated by journalism lecturer, Dr. Kathryn Hayes, a former journalist with extensive experience in general election coverage. Students from the University of Limerick's journalism undergraduate and master's programmes were also involved, providing live coverage and analysis as part of their coursework, gaining invaluable experience in political journalism. The debate was streamed on Limerick Voice digital news platforms with full reports on the day.



‘Historic moment’ as Ireland’s first national and all-island dance company launches at University of Limerick

University of Limerick hosted the launch of Ireland’s first national all-island dance company, Luail, formed by Liz Roche Company with strategic partners Maiden Voyage Dance and the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. This launch was part of “An Droichead Beo/The Living Bridge”, a two-day symposium celebrating 30 years of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.



The event featured speeches, future collaborations, and two new works, including “Bridging” by Palestinian artist Amir Sabra, who collaborated with composer Rossa O’Snodaigh and current MA students. Liz Roche, Artistic Director of Luail, highlighted the partnership with the Irish World Academy and Amir’s contributions: “The partnership with the Irish World Academy is integral to establishing new possibilities for artists on this island. We were delighted to support Amir’s R&D for ‘Bridging’ as he represents the exciting talent emerging from the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance.”





Record Launch: Oh, Listen to the Band!

Dr. Conor Caldwell (Irish, World Academy of Music and Dance) launched his new recording "Oh, Listen to the Band!" at the Blas International Summer School of Traditional Music and Dance on the 4th of July. The record explores the impact of jazz culture on Irish traditional music in the 1920s and uses arts practice methodology to fill in gaps in the historical record. Featuring Ryan Molloy, Ben Castle and UL graduate Cathal Ó Curráin, Oh, Listen to the Band! been featured in The Irish News and The Irish Echo, as well as receiving airplay on RTÉ Radio 1, Raidió na Gaeltachta, Lyric FM, BBC Radio Ulster and internationally.

Oíche Shamhna /Hallowe'en: Irish Origins & Customs

On the 24th of October, Dr. Karol Mullaney-Dignam (School of History & Geography), in association with the Bernal Institute and Aonad na Gaeilge, gave a talk on the origins of Oíche Shamhna/Halloween.

Exploring old Irish customs and folklore surrounding the festival, its ancient pre-Christian roots in Ireland, associated places, games, food and rituals.



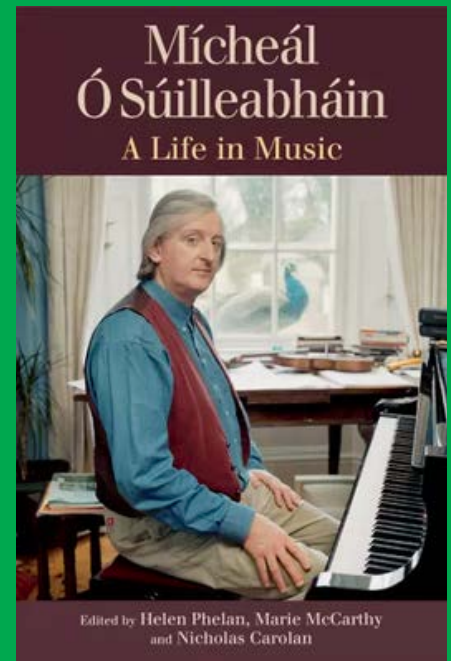
Geography Awareness Week

Geography Awareness Week took place from the 18th to the 22nd of November. Activities included a Geography Table Quiz and digital mapping Seminar.

Staff and students also joined Liz Gabbett (School of History and Geography) who led a lunchtime Shannon River Walk from the Kilmurray 'Sandy' beach.



Book Launch of Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin: A Life in Music



The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick and Cork University Press were pleased to host the launch of "Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin: A Life in Music" edited by Prof. Helen Phelan, Marie McCarthy and Nicholas Carolan. The book itself was launched by Dr. Iarla Ó Lionard. This is a collection of essays, reflections and poems inspired by the musical life of Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin.

With contributions from musicians, dancers, artists, academics, students, poets, and media personalities, the book explores the multi-faceted life of one of Ireland's best-known musicians. Ranging in style from the scholarly to the personal, the anecdotal and the poetic, this richly illustrated volume brings together the voices of those who knew him best and captures his wide-ranging influence as a performer, composer, educator, and cultural personality.



#ThinkLanguages: The University of Limerick experience 2024

Despite a snowy day, the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics welcomed over 80 Transition Year students and their teachers to campus on Thursday, November 21 to take part in "#ThinkLanguages: The University of Limerick experience".

The event was part of the national ThinkLanguages Week organised by Languages Connect, an initiative which seeks to link Transition Year students with Irish HEIs and encourage more students to continue with their language learning. The event opened with a Big Quiz where students were tested on their language skills, geography and general knowledge. Students then took part in a range of workshops including German hip-hop, Spanish dances, language & cultural tasters for Japanese and Arabic and had fun in a multilingual escape room.



The event was organised by Catherine Jeanneau, Rachel McLoughlin and Erika Marcet with the support and participation of many staff and students, who gave their time to share their passion for languages. The event was kindly funded by Languages Connect as part of a wider range of language promotion activities supporting the national strategy document "Languages Connect – Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017–2026".

Throughout ThinkLanguages Week, staff members also undertook a number of school visits in Limerick, Clare, Tipperary and Kerry with staff members presenting language-learning opportunities in UL and student ambassadors sharing their experience of learning languages.



Athena Swan Update

The Faculty Athena Swan Silver draft application was submitted for internal review in November. The application includes sections on the following areas:

- (1) Students,
- (2) Academic and research staff,
- (3) Professional managerial support staff, and
- (4) Culture, inclusion and belonging.



The above sections were compiled by staff working groups from across the faculty. A subsequent action plan working group assessed the Athena Swan Bronze application actions points and formulated the Athena Swan Silver action plan based on this assessment and the data analysis coming out of these groups.

The Assistant Dean, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Dr. Maria Rieder, would like to sincerely thank all committee members for their hard work on this application on behalf of the Faculty.

AHSS Committee for Access, Retention and Engagement

The Faculty Committee for Access Retention and Engagement (CARE) has been established to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion principles relevant to our AHSS student body are encouraged and promoted across the Faculty.

The Committee comprises of 4 working groups

1. Retention Working Group
2. Widening Access Working Group
3. Inclusive Teaching Working Group.
4. Quality and Impact review

See the list of members for each group below.

Retention	Widening participation	Inclusive teaching	Quality and impact review
Claire Ryan Niall Keegan Caroline Lane Jess Beeley Chris McInerney Catherine Jeanneau Veronica O'Regan Student Life - Sean PSU - Lucy Alexander de Barra	Patrick Doyle Shirley Ryan Katie McAuliffe Elaine Walsh Oscar Mascarenas Oonagh Grace Liz Gabbett Brendan Halpin	Jess Beeley Chris McInerney Elaine Walsh Maria Rieder Sara Hannafin Catherine Martin Caitlin Neachtain Cynthia Adubango	Margaret Fitzgerald-O'Reilly Maria Rieder

The Committee will work to progress these areas and will formulate specific action plans to address challenges present within the Faculty and the wider University.

The Assistant Dean, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Maria Rieder is very grateful to all staff members both within and outside the Faculty for their enthusiastic participation in this Committee.





Ambassador Maruyama's Visit to UL

On the 5th November, the Ambassador of Japan in Ireland, his Excellency Norio Maruyama visited University of Limerick. Ambassador Maruyama and Second Secretary Keiko Nakata met with Acting President Prof. Shane Kilcommins, Dr. Sandra Joyce (Executive Dean, AHSS), Dr. Angela Farrell (Assistant Dean International, AHSS) and Dr. Erika Marcet (Head of Japanese Section). In that meeting, postgraduate Japanese student from the Irish World Academy, Mariko Tatso, performed a beautiful reel. Ambassador Maruyama also had the opportunity to meet many students from the Japanese Section at the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics. After a short tour of campus, led by fourth-year students Gonzague Fabry and Cliona Rice, colleagues gathered in The Globe for the main event of the day. The event consisted of student presentations from first- to fourth-year students, international students from Japan and Transition Year students from Villiers Secondary School. The event concluded with an engaging conversation led by Ambassador Maruyama and moderated by Dr. Erika Marcet, where the cultural, educational, and economic ties between Ireland and Japan were explored.

Award for Erasmus + KA2 MaMaLise project

The Erasmus+ KA2 MaMaLise project has been awarded the European Language Label for 2024. The project team developed teacher training and pedagogical resources to support the development of language and culturally sensitive teaching and learning in primary and secondary schools, and in vocational educational contexts in EU countries against the backdrop of growing cultural and linguistic diversity. The project members were Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell, Dr. Catherine Martin, and Michelle Daly (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics).





Algerian Revolution Day

An event took place on the 6th of November in the GLOBE to mark Algerian Revolution Day. The event was hosted by Prof. Gisela Holfter and Andrea LaTouche, co-founders of LIAFG (The Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group) and Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell, Course Director of the ISPhD program.

The invited guests included: Mrs. Dali, the Chargé d'Affaires, Algerian Embassy and Mr. Hachemi, Finance Officer, Algerian Embassy along with many of our Algerian ISPhD students and staff. The event was officially opened by the Executive Dean AHSS, Dr. Sandra Joyce and featured guest speakers Dr. Cliona Hensey (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) and Prof. Patrick Crowley, University of Galway.

IWAMD/ULLC Summer School

Students from Southwest University in Beibei, Chongqing, China attended a language and music summer school co-hosted between UL Global, UL Language Centre and the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (IWAMD) led by Zoe Lawlor, Director, UL Language Centre and Dr. Matthew Noone, Course Director of the BA Music, IWAMD. The students had the opportunity to engage with music from the western, classical and popular tradition, both instrumental and vocal styles, classical traditions from India and Indonesia and West African drumming as well as attending English language classes in the UL Language Centre.



Incoming IWAMD MA Dance students from Hainan University also performed in the summer school. Such was the success of the summer school that a larger scale version is already being planned for summer 2025. Both student groups are featured in the photograph above.

Indonesian Batik Day

A celebration to mark Indonesian Batik Day took place on the 24th of October in the Globe, the event which was hosted by UL Global was attended by many of our Indonesian students. The event included presentations on three Indonesian regional cultures, video presentations along with Indonesian dance performances, batik displays, Indonesian crafts, Indonesian snacks, and Jasmine tea.



Research Fieldtrip to India

From the 23rd of July to the 18th of August, Nita Mishra (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) visited India to complete fieldwork research (funded by AHSS) including lectures and meetings in universities, fieldwork trips to villages of Khorda district, especially Baliana block in Odisha where Nita held numerous informal interviews with women duty bearers at grassroots village level, NGO workers, panchayat ward members, school principals, and self-help groups.



The outputs include building UL coalitions (internationalization) with 3 universities in Delhi (SDG17), upcoming peer-reviewed papers, and primary research for a book. Nita had the opportunity to sit with women, discuss challenges faced working at the village level to achieve food security (SDG2), gender based violence, and narratives of agency (SDG16) and empowerment creation (SDG5) in the process.

Nita also participated in a tree plantation event during one of the fieldtrips organized by the NGO PECUC with support from the Forest Department which provided saplings of fruit and flowering trees at a subsidized rate to encourage climate action (SDG13). Her visits to the Anganwadi centers led to informal interviews with workers and helpers and beneficiaries of the adolescence food entitlement scheme and digitalized cash transfer scheme, of the government, for poor pregnant women (SDG1, SDG2, SDG10). Researching in rural India is a very enriching experience



Erasmus funded staff mobility

Two staff members from the AHSS faculty office took part in Erasmus funded Staff Mobility Weeks in June 2024. AHSS Educational Technologist, Jess Beeley took part in a Staff Mobility Week on Universal Design of the Learning Environment at University of Bergen, Norway from 17th to the 21st of June. Universal design focuses on making everything that surrounds us (products, environment, IT-solutions/programs, and services) accessible to everybody, and it is linked with Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Dr. Niamh Lenahan attended an Intercultural Training week in Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary. The research and experienced-based program gave an insight into intercultural competencies while embedding them into a broader context of intercultural sensitivity, intercultural and inter-group relations. It placed a special emphasis on identity and the close connections between culture and human interaction. The programme also introduced possible strategies and means of developing an intercultural perspective and increase the efficiency of intercultural communication.



South East Asia Education in Ireland Trip



The Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell undertook an extensive promotional trip to South East Asia, accompanied by Roisin Hayes, UL Global and in conjunction with Education in Ireland from October 12th to November 2nd, 2024. Dr. Farrell met with universities in Indonesia, Cambodia, and Thailand as well as agencies and also attended several education fairs.

Dr. Farrell accompanied by Roisin Hayes, UL Global, the Irish Ambassador to Indonesia, Pdraig Francis and Miranda Hough the Education in Ireland's representative also met with members of the Ministry of Education in Indonesia to explore the possibility of further collaboration in the area of PhD upskilling for Indonesian academics. The ADI also established an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the University of Lampung, Indonesia and delivered a workshop on the ISPhD programme, for academics planning to apply for the Indonesian government funding (DIKTI)

Visiting Scholars

The Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell is currently hosting two visiting scholars from Shandong University China, Huaisheng Liu (Lecturer) whose discipline is Comparative Literature and Cross-Cultural Studies with research interests in Cross-cultural imagology and Ding Nianliang (Teacher) whose discipline is English teaching with research interests in integrating area studies, mostly local cultures, into EFL teaching to prepare learners for cross-cultural communication and engagement.



Both will participate in our academic English classes and continue their research studies here in the University of Limerick until August 2025. The scholars are funded by the Chinese Ministry of Higher education.

The Faculty also hosted four visiting PhD students from Algeria who each spent one month upskilling in English. Nardjes Labeled, Meriem Rayene Lamraoui and Bochra Benaicha all students at Abou Bakr Belkaid University, Tlemcen, Algeria, and Amel Mounnes, students at University of Oran 2, Mohamed Ben Ahmed, Algeria all took academic English classes and attended many of the AHSS PhD Development Seminars and Doctoral College Training/Workshops.

The visitors also enjoyed a guided tour of the Glucksman library. These visiting scholars were funded by the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education which is prioritising building collaboration with Irish universities.



International/Intercultural Workshops



Three Internationalisation/Intercultural workshops led by AHSS staff took place over the semester, in the Globe. These workshops are outputs of the TRIP Erasmus+ K2 Project which AHSS is leading for UL, with partners in France, Germany, Spain, and Slovakia. TRIP stands for Training and Realising Innovations in Internationalisation at Home Pedagogies. Further outputs include the TRIP Professional Development Programme which will be available online from Spring semester 2025 in the form of three online modules. This programme offers intercultural and pedagogical upskilling to teaching and professional support staff in further support of inclusive Internationalisation at Home. The first workshop An Introduction to Inclusive Internationalisation at Home was hosted by Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell and Sarah Smail (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) on October 2nd. The Theme of the Second workshop held on November 6th was Internationalising the Curriculum and Teaching and Learning (across all subject discipline areas). The work shop was hosted by Dr Catherine Martin and Dr Anita Barmettler (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics)

The Final Intercultural/Internationalisation workshop took place in the Globe on December 3rd, 2024, the theme of the workshop was Developing Effective Intercultural Communication Skills for the culturally diverse HE context. The workshop was hosted by Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell, Dr. Mary Masterson (School of Education) and Dr. Sarah Smail (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics). Three online modules will be available to all staff from Spring semester 2025. [More information on the TRIP project.](#)

AHSS Faculty Deliver Workshops at UCM (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

AHSS Faculty including Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell together with Dr. Catherine Martin and Dr. Anita Barmettler (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) delivered a series of TRIP project professional development workshops in inclusive and culturally relevant pedagogies and intercultural communication skills for higher education in the Universidad Complutense de Madrid from November 19 to 22 2024. The Universidad Complutense de Madrid is one of the 5 partner universities involved in the Erasmus+ TRIP project.

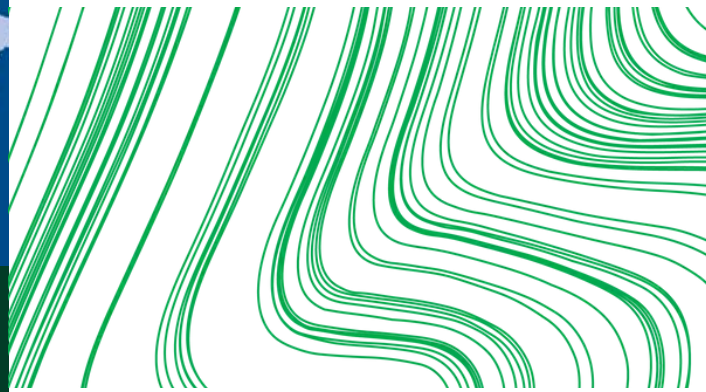
Successful EMERGE European University Alliance Bid



EMERGE stands for (Empowering the Margins of Europe through Regional and Global Engagement). The successful bid led by UL involves a partnership between 9 EU universities. It aims to create a European University better suited to address the challenges of marginal territories and communities.

It will work with and for communities on the margins of Europe to design and evaluate solutions and institutional models to help build a more equitable and sustainable European society in support of SDG 4. An EMERGE planning week took place in UL between the 25th and 27th of November and was hosted by acting President Prof. Shane Kilcommins. The alliance will be officially launched in January 2025.

Visit to Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN University Norway)



A visit will be undertaken by AHSS ADI Dr. Angela Farrell to Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN University Norway) from December 16th to 19th 2024. The purpose of the visit will be to plan for a new joint MA in Pedagogies for Empowerment-application which will be funded by the Erasmus Mundus scheme. INN university is one of the nine EMERGE European university alliance partners.

The mission of EMERGE is as follows “EMERGE focuses on societal engagement working with and for our communities. It aims to create a European University better suited to address the challenges of marginal territories and communities.” This newly proposed MA programme is highly relevant to promoting this mission.



World renowned musician Iarla Ó Lionáird conferred with a PhD in Arts Practice

Iarla Ó Lionáird, an acclaimed Irish songwriter and twice Grammy-nominated artist, was awarded a PhD in Arts Practice from the University of Limerick (UL). Reflecting on his father's reaction before he passed, Iarla shared, "That was one of the greatest feelings... that Dad knew I'd finished it, but also that I had finished it myself."

His connection to UL began in 2003 during his Master's in Ethnomusicology, encouraged by Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin. "Mícheál made me feel like I could do it and empowered me," Iarla said, emphasizing the supportive environment of UL's Irish World Academy.

A pivotal moment was his collaboration with composer Donnacha Dennehy on *Grá Agus Bás*, which "led to work in opera and other projects in the new classical field."

Reflecting on his educational journey, Iarla contrasted his UL experience with past studies: "It made me fall in love with the process again... I used to drive home every day with my head on fire."



PhD Conferrings

On the 29th of August , the Faculty witnessed 14 AHSS PhD researchers graduating with PhDs. A reception took place after the morning graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievement with their supervisors, internal examiners and the students' families in attendance.

Graduates	School/Dept	Supervisor
Daniah Khayat	EIC	Dr Yianna Liatsos / Dr Sinead McDermott
Barbara Watts	HISTORY	Prof Ciara Breathnach
Phoebe Brown	IWAMD	Dr Jenny Roche /Dr Grant McLay
Pui Sze Cheung	IWAMD	Dr Triona McCaffrey / Dr Sylvia Murphy Tighe
Sean MacLeod	IWAMD	Dr Niall Keegan / Dr Kathleen Turner
Iarla Ó Lionáird	IWAMD	Dr Aileen Dillane
James Meighan	LAW	Prof Laura Cahillane
Karen O'Brien	LAW	Prof Raymond Friel / Dr Laura Donnellan
Rebecca Wade	LAW	Prof Seán Redmond/Dr Catherine Naughton/Dr Lydia Bracken
Anais Guittonny	MLAL	Prof Michael G. Kelly
A A Abdulrahman	MLAL	Prof Liam Murray
Robert Moloney	PPA	Prof Neil Robinson
Pamela Cotter	IWAMD/HISTORY	Dr Niall Keegan /Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman
EL Reid-Buckley	SOC/LAW	Dr Carmen Kuhling /Prof Jennifer Scheppe



Scholarship awards for IWAMD PhD student Mathuriga Thevapalan

Two Danish foundations, the Augustinus Foundation and Knud Højgaards Foundation, have awarded scholarships to PhD student Mathuriga Thevapalan. The Augustinus Foundation has supported her for three consecutive years, while Knud Højgaards Foundation has provided funding for the past two years of her PhD.



The Augustinus Foundation focuses its philanthropic efforts on key areas such as art, culture, research, and social and humanitarian initiatives. Distributions for the Danish cultural life account for more than 80 percent of the grants awarded every year. Contributing to a vibrant classical music life plays an important role for the Foundation. Knud Højgaard's Foundation supports business, cultural, scientific, social, and artistic initiatives for the benefit of Denmark and its people - among other things, by contributing to the development and education of Danish youth.

Dr. Pui Sze Cheung using music therapy to help new mothers

Dr. Pui Sze Cheung, a music therapy graduate from Hong Kong, celebrated her PhD from the University of Limerick for pioneering music therapy services for new mothers. Her journey began with an MA thesis exploring music's role in childbirth, where she designed playlists to ease labor stress. Recognizing the potential of music therapy for new parents' mental health, she pursued a PhD, conducting a six-week pilot study with the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services at University Maternity Hospital Limerick. Supported by notable supervisors and government funding, Dr. Cheung aims to expand her research nationally and internationally, expressing gratitude for UL's support in making her dream a reality.



PhD student wins award for Best Early Career Researcher/student presentation at International Conference

Phil Bonjour (IIRC funded PhD Student, Centre for the Study of Popular Music and Popular Culture) presented a paper entitled 'From "Clameur" to Chorality: Towards a Musical Approach to Football Fans in France' at the 2024 Football Collective annual conference in Newcastle (England).

Phil's work examines the musicality of social processes among the fans of Paris St Germain, Olympique Marseille and Lens, in France through their practices of football chanting. Phil was awarded the prize for the Best Early Career Researcher/student presentation at the conference. Phil is supervised by Dr. Martin J Power (Dept. of Sociology) and Dr. Aileen Dillane (IWAMD).



Samhain Research Event

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is home to over 50 postgraduate research students, the vast majority of whom engage in PhD research. Some researchers are completing projects with traditional, text-based outputs, while others are registered on the PhD in Arts Practice. While students on the PhD in Arts Practice produce text-based research outputs, their work specifically includes aspects of practice. The work of both groups of researchers reflects the whole range of expertise represented in the Academy and beyond. Once a year, the work of this exceptionally rich research community is showcased in a series known as Samhain. This year, presentations occurred online from the 4th to the 8th of November.



GOI scholarship awardees

Paloma Valencia (left), PhD researcher in MLAL and member of the Centre for Applied Language Studies (CALs), has been awarded a one-year GOI Early Career Postgraduate Scholarship for her project "Approximations of Practice for MA English Language Student Teachers: Optimising VLE Affordances in Teacher Education", supervised by Prof Fiona Farr and Dr. Elaine Riordan. As part of her project, she is looking at how TESOL teachers in training are using technology in the classroom, as well as running workshops on technology integration for their teaching practice.

Gabrielle Fath (right), who started her Research PhD in Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication at the University of Limerick in September 2024, has been awarded a three-year GOI postgraduate scholarship for her project "Mature Women in Minor Literature? Writing Women's Ageing in Post-War European Short Fiction". Her PhD project is supervised by Dr Michaela Schrage-Frueh (UL) and Dr Philippe Laplace (Université de Franche-Comté). It aims to examine how short fiction writes and re-writes the representation of women's ageing, specifically in post-war minor literature from three small European countries: Scotland, Ireland and Switzerland.

History PhD graduate Barbara Watts completed research remotely

Barbara Watts, originally from Wales and now in Alberta, Canada, recently earned a PhD in History from University of Limerick (UL), completing her studies entirely online. Her thesis, *Searching for Celtic Cousins: Welsh, Irish and Scottish Immigrant Worker Experience in Alberta, Canada, 1880-1920*, combined her lifelong passion for history with her family heritage.

Barbara's love for history began in childhood but was set aside during school. After a career in education and retirement in 2015, she returned to her passion, completing UL's online MA in History of Family before pursuing her PhD. Despite challenges of remote learning, she thrived with strong support from UL faculty and peers.

Barbara now plans to expand her thesis into articles or a monograph, continuing her commitment to lifelong learning and historical exploration.





Summer School in Digital Palaeography at the University of Göttingen

PhD student Laura Purcell attended a Summer School in Digital Palaeography with a focus on Scholarly Editing at the Institute for Digital Humanities, University of Göttingen, Germany, 26 August–6 September 2024.

The skills gained by Laura will be crucial as she develops her doctoral project, a study of a manuscript held in the Special Collections department of the Glucksman Library. Laura is supervised by Dr. Carrie Griffin (EIC) and Dr. Richard Kirwan (History and Geography).

All you ever wanted to know about webcomics: Rachel Beck (PhD candidate)

Rachel Beck, a doctoral candidate in Public History, has published an article on RTE Brainstorm entitled 'All You Ever Wanted to Know About Webcomics'.

The article is an introduction to the world of webcomics, aimed at a general audience. It stems from Rachel's research topic, which investigates how webcomics can be used to get a wider range of people involved in history production and interpretation. The article is available to read on RTE Brainstorm.





Lidl awards scholarships to UL students

The German Section (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) is delighted to share the news that language students Kate Flynn, Emma Lynch (BBS with German) and Julie Cizek (BA Applied Languages) were awarded €5000 in fund based on an internal competition sponsored by Lidl which tested their German language skills. UL is the only university in Ireland to receive these scholarships from the retail giant.

The Culture Shocked! exhibition now available as a permanent collection on campus



The comics from the Culture Shocked! exhibition which celebrate cultural diversity are available to the public as a permanent collection. They are showcased on the walls of the Languages/Millstream building as well as the entrance of the UL Global office in the Main Building.



Culture Shocked! is a compilation of fifty illustrations depicting authentic testimonies of cultural misunderstandings with humour. The project led by Dr. Florence Le Baron-Earle (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) brought together UL staff and students who shared personal anecdotes of intercultural encounters. The original artwork was created by students and alumni of UL: Julie Alquier, Megan Brophy, Edison Cai, Thomas Cunningham, and Lakeisha Lazo

Fourth-year language students present their posters in Japanese

On the 11th of October, 9 fourth-year students from the Japanese Section of the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics presented their posters about food in Japanese.

The audience, of over 70 attendees, included transition year and Leaving Certificate students from Villiers School (Limerick) studying Japanese, Japanese students learning English at the UL Language Centre, students from UL's Japanese Section, and study abroad Japanese students in UL. The event took place in The Globe from and was a great success for all involved.



MA Student Tara Brady-Tipperary Rose

Tipperary woman, Tara Brady flew the flag for UL as well as her county, as she graced the stage at the 2024 Rose of Tralee festival. Tara, 23, who is currently studying for her Masters in Public History and Cultural Heritage in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at UL, completed a lifelong dream as she donned the sash as the Tipperary Rose.

"The support I've had so far has been remarkable. It's beyond words, but all I can say is that I will carry it with me for the rest of my life. I'll never forget the people who supported me and who helped me to this point."



MA Public History & Cultural Heritage graduate appointed as Michael Davitt Museum Curator

AHSS Alumna Deirdre McGuirk has been appointed as Curator of the Michael Davitt Museum in Co. Mayo, a community museum dedicated to the Irish revolutionary, land reformer, and activist Michael Davitt (1846-1906). Deirdre holds a BA Hons in History and Geography from ATU, Mayo, and has many years experience as a tour guide in Co Mayo providing walking tours in Westport. She has carried out many roles at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life as a tour guide and with the education department and the Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN).

Deirdre graduated in 2023 from the MA in Public History and Cultural Heritage programme directed by Dr. Karol Mullaney-Dignam, completing her dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann Coleman (School of History and Geography).

Alumni Spotlights



Mary Mc Carthy

Mary McCarthy, a graduate of the MA in Creative Writing, shares how her time at UL helped her transition from a career change to becoming a full-time writer. Inspired by her West Cork upbringing and her father's storytelling, she chose UL for its renowned Creative Writing program, where supportive faculty and a collaborative environment enhanced her skills.

Her UL experience led to a successful career as a freelance journalist and poet, with notable achievements including contributions to "The Southern Star" and a shortlist for the 2022 Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award. Mary is currently preparing to publish "Camino's Hidden Secrets", a poetry collection inspired by her journey on the Camino de Santiago, exploring themes of self-renewal and empathy.

Reflecting on her journey, Mary encourages future students to "stand out, be different, dream big".

Sarah Kinsella

Sarah Kinsella, a UL alumna in History, Politics, and Social Studies, reflects on how her time at UL shaped her life and career in the heritage sector. She grew up in Galway, joined UL for its unique work placement and study abroad options, and made lifelong friendships and memories, including a semester in Canada.



Sarah highlights impactful lecturers like Eoin Devereux and Pádraig Lenihan, who deepened her understanding and love for history. UL's diverse community and experiences gave her the confidence to pursue her passion for heritage. Post-graduation, Sarah interned at a museum in the Lake District, then completed a Master's in Cultural Heritage Studies in Glasgow, which led to roles in museums in Dublin and Vancouver. A major career highlight was working at the British Museum, where she led educational programs and collaborated with renowned historians.

Currently, Sarah is Events Manager at the National Trust, overseeing events that highlight conservation work across the UK and collaborating with experts in curation and conservation. She finds fulfillment in preserving history and engaging communities, and she encourages others to pursue meaningful work that benefits future generations.



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**Wishing you all a Merry
Christmas!**

